



WORLDCOM, INC.
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT
1133 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

(For Petitioner)

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In re Application of
Knoblock, R. T., et. al.
Application No. 09/995,193
Filed: November 27, 2001
For: METHOD, SYSTEM AND PROGRAM
PRODUCT THAT UTILIZE A
HIERARCHICAL CONCEPTUAL
FRAMEWORK TO MODEL AN
ENVIRONMENT CONTAINING A
COLLECTION OF ITEMS

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

: DECISION
: DISMISSING
: PETITION
:

This is in response to the petition filed September 9, 2002, by Brian C. Oakes on behalf of WorldCom, Inc. and MCI Communications Corp. requesting that the inventor, Mike Galobay, be excluded from access to the above referenced application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

The petition indicates that a copy of Mr. Galobay's employment agreement with MCI Communications Corp. has been recorded with the Office. The petition also indicates that assignment documents executed by the other inventors have been recorded with the Office.

The assignee of record of the entire interest may request that the inventor be prevented from obtaining access to an application file. See MPEP § 106.

It is clear from the facts alleged in the petition that WorldCom is not the assignee of record of the entire right, title and interest in the above referenced application. The petition is Dismissed until petitioner establishes that WorldCom, Inc. is the assignee of record of the entire right, title and interest in the above referenced application.

Any renewed request must meet the requirements for establishing the right of an assignee to take action as required by 37 CFR §3.73(b). The ownership statement must be signed by someone authorized to act on behalf of the assignee. A power of attorney to prosecute a patent application is not sufficient to authorize signing a statement under 37 CFR § 3.73(b). See MPEP § 324.

The original basis for withholding access to a patent application is that an inventor who has assigned his interest has no basis in reviewing the prosecution. Even where an inventor has no ownership interest, some inventors may have a continued financial interest, e.g., if he is to receive a bonus if the patent issues, or personal interest, e.g., where he would like to add the patent to his resume. In this application given that WorldCom, Inc. has not established a 100% interest, and given that the non-signing inventor will not be allowed to prosecute application, and there is no harm to his continued access, it is not appropriate to grant the petition at this time.

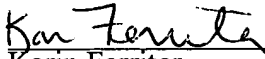
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